

LOOKOUT RANCH
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June 30, 1998

Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on draft programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Gentleperson's:

I am a farmer and rancher in Lookout, CA, which is in the Pit River watershed area and one of most significant tributaries to the Sacramento River. My family also has a smaller operation on the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, another significant tributary to the Sacramento River. I have a number of specific concerns about Cal-Fed's proposals.

As Cal-Fed works to solve environmental concerns in the bay-delta region, Cal-Fed must also assure that it meets the needs of farmers and ranchers, as well as industry and urban users. Cal-Fed's solutions must bring more reliable water supplies and improved water quality to all of California's residents.

The solutions must include significant amounts of new water storage. We cannot meet the needs of both the environment and California's rapidly increasing population without it. Cal-Fed's own water use and requirements based on population estimates clearly indicate that the proposed new water storage fall dramatically short of what will be required.

Conservation alone cannot provide enough water to meet all of our needs. It is critical to save our excess water during wet years, collecting it in reservoirs for use when it's needed to meet human and environmental needs during future droughts; and drought will surely come to California.

The cost of delta improvements and water storage facilities must be shared fairly by all California residents. Those who create demand and will benefit directly from new supplies must pay for them.

I recognize that new water development will require some land to be taken out of production. Indeed, my own family ranch may go under water from a proposed reservoir. But Cal-Fed proposes to covert hundreds of thousands of acres of

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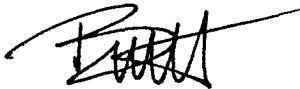
prime farmlands with good water rights. My family's ranch is predominately winter livestock grazing land, but taking California's prime soils out of production by removing water rights must be minimized. New water storage plans cannot lead to "mining" of California's underground water supplies. California farmland soils and the crops they produce are a global resource, priceless and irreplaceable on our earth.

California must strengthen water rights and honor our government's long-standing promise to protect regions where water originates. It must not base its solutions on redirection of agricultural water and conversion of prime California farmlands. This short-term solution will not benefit California residents or the global population in the long term.

All farmers and ranchers recognize California's water needs and want Cal-Fed to succeed, but will not accept solutions that don't benefit **all** of California's population; including the farmers and ranchers who will suffer from the current plan which does not include adequate new water storage facilities.

Sincerely,

LOOKOUT RANCH, INC.



Bill Wright
President

cc: California Farm Bureau Federation

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